NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC SESSION
GRANDVIEW SCHOOL CAFETERIA
VIA ZOOM MEETING
https://ncboe.zoom.us/j/97553608573?pwd=hVa31daN4Ff2ecIfP3OzV12MCt9kUe.1
GRANDVIEW SCHOOL CAFETERIA
January 06, 2026
7:30 P.M.
AGENDA

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **COMPLIANCE STATEMENT**
   In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting has been properly advertised in the designated newspaper and the agenda has been posted at the appropriate locations.
4. **REPORT ON ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 4, 2025**
   - **Eric Finkelstein- 2,185 Votes**
   - **Write in- 2 Votes**
5. **SWEARING IN OF BOARD MEMBER**
6. **ROLL CALL**
7. **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR PRESIDENT**
   - **Motion to nominate _____to be approved as President.**

     Moved: Seconded:

     Yes: No:

8. **ELECTION OF PRESIDENT - PRESIDENT ASSUMES POSITION OF CHAIRPERSON**
9. **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR VICE-PRESIDENT**
   - **Motion to nominate _____to be approved as Vice President.**

     Moved: Seconded:

     Yes: No:

10. **ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT**
11. **BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT**
12. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**
    - **Student Safety Data System Report**
13. **PUBLIC RECOGNITION**
    OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT (Pursuant to Board Policy 0167 – Public Participation in Board Meetings) During this opportunity to comment, district residents and staff are invited to discuss any area of public concern that may be in respect to the operation of the schools. Board Policy 0167 requires that individuals state their name and address of

residence and asks that all remarks be directed to the Board as a whole and not to individuals. (All Zoom guests are required to turn their camera on if participating in public comment) The Board asks that members of the public be courteous and mindful of the rights of other individuals when speaking. Although the Board may not respond to items raised during the public forum, all public comments will be considered and may be discussed tonight under "new business" at this meeting, or at subsequent meetings under "old business," or during a Board committee meeting, if appropriate. Each speaker's statement will be limited to three (3) minutes in duration.

14. ACTION ITEMS

- **Organizational Resolutions**
  - **O1. Adopt bylaws and policies**
  - **O2. Approve Robert Rules of Order**
  - **O3. Appoint Delegate to NJSBA**
  - **O4. Re-Adopt Code of Ethics**
  - **O5. Approve 2026 Committees and Memberships**
  - **O6. Approve 2026 -2027 public and confidential meeting calendar**
- **General Resolutions**
  - **G1. Approve 2026-2027 Preschool Tuition**
  - **G2. Approve Shared Services Agreement**
  - **G3. Approve ASE facilities use application**
- **Business Resolutions**
  - **B1. Approve Public and Confidential Minutes of December 9th 2025**
  - **B2. Approve Payrolls**
  - **B3. Approve Electronic Check Register**
  - **B4. Approve Bills and Claims**
  - **B5. Approve Transfers**
  - **B6. Approve Board Secretary Certification for the month of November 2025**
  - **B7. Approve Board Secretary and Treasurer's Financial reports for November 2025**
- **Personnel Resolutions**
  - **P1. Approve Title I tutor listed**
  - **P2. Approve Professional Development for listed staff**
  - **P3. Approve staff retirement**

15. OLD BUSINESS

16. NEW BUSINESS

17. ADJOURN TO CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

☐ Legal ☒ Attorney-Client Privilege ☒ Personnel
☐ Negotiations ☒ School Security/Public Safety ☐ Student Matter

The next scheduled public meeting of the Board will be held at 7:30 pm on: Wednesday February 4, 2026.

Posting: Board Members, Principals, NCPE Co-Presidents, NCEA Co-Presidents, Caldwell Progress Press Member, Board Office, Schools, and Town Hall.

The Board of Education of the Borough of North Caldwell in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in public session on January 6, 2026 in person at the Grandview School Cafeteria as well as via an online Zoom Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Michael Halik, Business Administrator, indicated that in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting had been properly advertised and the agenda had been posted at the appropriate locations.

Roll call by the Business Administrator:

Present: Mr. David Ved, President
Mrs. Sapna Malige, Vice-President (present on zoom)
Mr. Eric Finkelstein
Mr. Michael DiGirolomo
Mr. Matthew Whitford

Also Present: Mr. Chris Checchetto, Superintendent
Mr. Michael Halik, Business Administrator / Board Secretary
Mr. David Blackowski, Network and Operations Specialist

ACTION ITEM

Mr. Halik called for Nominations for President.

Motion to nominate David Ved to be approved as President.

Moved:	Mr. Finkelstein	Seconded:	Mr. DiGirolomo
Yes:	5	No:	0

Once approved, Mr. Ved, as President, assumed the position of chairperson calling for nominations for Vice-President.

Motion to Nominate Sapna Malige to be approved as Vice President.

Moved:	Mr. Ved	Seconded:	Mr. DiGirolomo
Yes:	5	No:	0

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Ved reported that nine (9) people attended the meeting on zoom. He welcomed everyone back from winter break and hoped they enjoyed celebrating many traditions. He thanked the families that volunteered their time to share those traditions with the students. He expressed his gratitude to the parents and teachers for the ongoing commitment to our schools.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Checchetto wished everyone a Happy New Year and was happy to see the students rested and ready to work.

Mr. Checchetto reported on the Student Safety Data System. The SSDS collects incidents of violence, vandalism, weapons, substances, harassment, intimidation and bullying (HIB), restraint, seclusion and other incidents leading to removal, as well as HIB trainings and programs conducted to support anti-bullying efforts. He reported that there were zero incidents of this nature for the reporting period of September 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025.

Mr. Checchetto congratulated Cathy Zimmerman on her retirement. Mrs. Zimmerman has been with the North Caldwell School District for 29 years and has served as a 6th grade teacher, 5th grade reading teacher, and most recently and currently the Gould School Librarian.

Mr. Checchetto reported that the admin team was able to tour the inside of the Grandview expansion. That project remains on schedule and on target for a September opening. Updates and progress pictures will be shared wit the school community in upcoming communications.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

REORGANIZATION RESOLUTIONS

O1. RESOLVED that the Board of Education adopt all existing bylaws and policies of the Board and approve existing administrative rules and regulations, subject to revision, for the forthcoming fiscal school year.

Moved:	Mr. Finkelstein	Seconded:	Mr. Whitford
Yes:	4	No:	0
		Abstain:	Mrs. Malige (Due to technical issues with zoom)

O2. **RESOLVED** that all meetings of the Board of Education be conducted according to Robert Rules of Order and Board Policy.

Moved: Mr. Finkelstein Seconded: Mr. Whitford

Yes: 4 No: 0

Abstain: Mrs. Malige
(Due to technical issues with zoom)

O3. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education appoint **Sapna Malige** as Delegate to the New Jersey School Boards Association for one (1) year, beginning immediately and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the policy authorizing the duties of the delegate to the New Jersey School Board Association be approved as follows:

1. Represent the Board at meetings of the New Jersey School Boards Association.

2. Study and report to the Board all proposed State and Federal Legislature of interest and relevance.

3. At the direction of the Board, prepare proposed resolutions for submission to the State School Boards Association.

The policy shall not prohibit or discourage other Board members from active participation in legislative affairs.

Moved: Mr. Finkelstein Seconded: Mr. Whitford

Yes: 4 No: 0

Abstain: Mrs. Malige
(Due to technical issues with zoom)

O4. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education re-adopt **Code of Ethics**, attached.

Moved: Mr. Finkelstein Seconded: Mr. Whitford

Yes: 4 No: 0

Abstain: Mrs. Malige
(Due to technical issues with zoom)

O5. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the attached list of Committees and Membership for 2026.

Moved: Mr. Finkelstein Seconded: Mr. Whitford

Yes: 4 No: 0

Abstain: Mrs. Malige
(Due to technical issues with zoom)

O6. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the attached schedule of public and confidential meetings for 2026-2027.

Moved: Mr. Finkelstein Seconded: Mr. Whitford

Yes: 4 No: 0

Abstain: Mrs. Malige
(Due to technical issues with zoom)

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

G1. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the 2026-2027 Preschool tuition to be $ 4,400.00 per child.

Moved: Mr. Finkelstein Seconded: Mr. Whitford

Yes: 5 No: 0

G2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the shared services agreement between the North Caldwell Board of Education and the Borough of North Caldwell to provide Class III Special Law Enforcement Officers (SLEO) for the remainder of the 2025- 2026 school year.

Moved: Mr. Finkelstein Seconded: Mr. Whitford

Yes: 5 No: 0

G3. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the following facilities use application as per North Caldwell Board of Education Policy 7510:

Organization:	**NCPE**
User Class:	**Class 1**
Activity:	**ASE Afterschool Enrichment**
Facility:	**Grandview & Gould Classrooms and Gymnasiums**
Dates:	**1-6-26 through 3-26-26**
Time:	**3:15-4:30 pm**
Fee:	**No Fee**

Moved: Mr. Finkelstein Seconded: Mr. Whitford

Yes: 5 No: 0

BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS

B1. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the **Public Minutes of December 9, 2025.**

Moved: Mr. Finkelstein Seconded: Mr. Whitford

Yes: 5 0

B2. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the following **Payrolls:**

Payroll Date:	Payroll #	Amount:
December 15, 2025	**69**	**$446,557.08**
December 23, 2025	**70**	**$423,817.30**

Moved: Mr. Finkelstein Seconded: Mr. Whitford

Yes: 5 No: 0

B3. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the following **Electronic Check Register(s):**

Date	Starting check #	Ending Check #	Total Amount
November 1, 2025 – November 30, 2025	**E02937**	**E02943**	**$63,815.67**

Moved: Mr. Finkelstein Seconded: Mr. Whitford

Yes: 5 No: 0

B4. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the following **Bills and Claims:**

Date	Starting check #	Ending Check #	Total Amount
December 10, 2025	**003628**	**003642**	**$42,910.74**
December 18, 2025	**003644**	**003651**	**$261,569.82**
January 6, 2026	**003652**	**003678**	**$267,541.14**

Moved: Mr. Finkelstein Seconded: Mr. Whitford

Yes: 5 No: 0

B5. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve attached **Transfers for November 2025**:

Moved: Mr. Finkelstein Seconded: Mr. Whitford

Yes: 5 No: 0

B6. **WHEREAS** pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c) 3, the Board Secretary does certify that as of **November 2025**, no budgetary line-item account has encumbrances and expenditures which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the district board of education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8 and 18A:22-8.1; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c) 4, the Board of Education does certify that as of **November 2025**, the revised Board Secretary Monthly Financial Report, did not reflect an over expenditure in any Major Account or Fund, and based on the Appropriation Balances reflected on this report and on the advice of District Officials, that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Moved: Mr. Finkelstein Seconded: Mr. Whitford

Yes: 5 No: 0

B7. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the attached revised Board Secretary's and Treasurer's **Monthly Financial Reports** for **November 2025**.

Moved: Mr. Finkelstein Seconded: Mr. Whitford

Yes: 5 No: 0

PERSONNEL RESOLUTIONS

P1. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following teacher for Title I Tutoring to be paid through The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Grant at a rate of $75.00 per hour effective for the 2025-2026 school year:

Name	Position	AM Rate	PM Rate
Gray, Christine	Before/After School Tutor	$50.00	$75.00

Moved: Mr. Finkelstein Seconded: Mr. Whitford

Yes: 4 No: 0

Abstain: Mrs. Malige
(Due to technical issues with zoom)

P2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Professional Development Workshops/Conferences costs for the following staff:

Name	Date	Workshop	Cost Not to Exceed
Keating, T.	1/29/2026	Dealing w/ Angry Students	$60.00
Keenan, A.	2/7/2026	NJIDA Winter Institute	$105.00
Schechter, C.	2/7/2026	NJIDA Winter Institute	$140.00 (4 Sessions)

Moved: Mr. Finkelstein Seconded: Mr. Whitford

Yes: 4 No: 0

Abstain: Mrs. Malige
(Due to technical issues with zoom)

P3. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, regretfully accept the retirement of **Cathy Zimmermann** effective July 1, 2026.

Moved: Mr. Finkelstein Seconded: Mr. Whitford

Yes: 4 No: 0

Abstain: Mrs. Malige
(Due to technical issues with zoom)

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

The following resolution was called at approximately 7:45 pm.

RESOLVED that in accordance with section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, Public Law 1975, the Board has the authority to adjourn to closed session to discuss matters pertaining to: School Security/Public Safety, Personnel, Attorney-Client Privilege. Said matters will be made public upon their disposition.

Moved: Mr. Whitford Seconded: Mr. Finkelstein

Yes: 5 No: 0

As there was no further business to discuss, the Board adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Halik

Michael Halik
Business Administrator / Board Secretary